

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF YUGOSLAV ASSEMBLY VISIT TO PEKING

REF: (A) HONG KONG 10598; (B) HONG KONG 2944

1. YUGOSLAV PRESS COVERAGE OF CURRENT FEDERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION VISIT TO PRC IS SOMEWHAT LONGER AND MORE PROMINENTLY PLACED THAN USUAL FOR A VISIT OF THIS TYPE. HSU HSIANG CHIEN REMARKS AT BANQUET WERE GIVEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION UNDER HEADLINE "CHINA RESOLUTELY SUPPORTS STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA" IN ARTICLE RUNNING FULL LENGTH OF PAGE FOUR OF SEPT 24 POLITIKA. POLITIKA SEPT 25 CARRIED PAGE FOUR TANJUG REPORT ON DELEGATION MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER TEN HSIAO PING. BOTH MAJOR BELGRADE MORNING PAPERS RAN FRONT PAGE REPORTS SEPT 26 ON CHOE EN LAI'S REPLY TO MESSAGE TITO SENT RECENTLY ON CYPRUS CRISIS AND REPORTED ANOTHER ROUND OF TOASTS AT DINNER GIVEN BY YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR. PRESS STATES TENG HANDAD CHOU'S MESSAGE TO DAPCEVIC FOR DELIVERY TO YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT.

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2. ALTHOUGH MEDIA COVERAGE OF DELEGATION'S VISIT IS MORE EXTENSIVE THAN IT WAS DURING GLIGOROV'S VISIT LAST MARCH, IT HAS BEEN TEMPERATE ON WHOLE. OTHER HIGH-LEVEL VISITS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS (INCLUDING TWO SOVIETS) HAVE CLAIMED PRIME PRESS SPACE. CONSIDERING REFERENCES TO "HEGEMBNISM", NEED TO SAFEGUAR INDEPENDENCE, ETC., IN REPORTS, RESTRAINED NATURE OF COVERARE IS PROBABLY ALSO DUE IN PART TO GOY POLICY DECISION NOT TO EXAGGERATE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMIN-FORMIST ARRESTS AND DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS. HOWEVER, IMPLIED CHINESE MORAL SUPPORT FOR YUGOSLAVS IN WAKE OF DISCOVERY OF PRO-SOVIET SUBVERSIVES AND WARM TONE OF VISIT - EMPHASIZED BY TENG' REQUEST THAT DELEGATION RELAY MESSAGE FROM CHOU AND GREETINGS FROM MAO AND CHOU TO TITO - HAVE COME ACROSS CLEARLY IN REPORTS.

3. PRESS COVERAGE DOUBTLESS REFLECTS DESIRE OF BOTH SIDES TO IMPROVE STATE - AS OPPOSED TO PARTY - RELATIONS. BESIDES GENERAL INCREASE OF CHINESE INTEREST IN EASTERN EUROPE NOTED IN REFTEL, PRC WARMING TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA HAS PROBABLY BEEN FACILITATED BY REPORTED LOOSENING OF TIES BETWEEN ALBANIA AND CHINA. YUGOSLAVS DOUBTLESS WELCOMENCHANCE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIP WITH PEKING NOW THAT PRO-SOVIET CONSPIRACY HAS BEEN UNCOVERED.
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